

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03 DHA-02
EB-08 OES-07 AID-05 IGA-02 /105 W
-----083439 182103Z /72

R 181158Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8449
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13730

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG IS XF PLO
SUBJ: ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS; ARAB REACTIONS

REFS: (A) CAIRO 13605, (B) CAIRO 13680 (NOTAL)

1. SETTLEMENTS. ALL THREE AUGUST 18 ARAB LANGUAGE DAILIES
FRONT PAGED, BUT ONLY GUMHURIYYA FEATURED, ISRAELI GOVERN-
MENT DECISION ESTABLISH THREE ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS ON
WEST BANK. PAPERS CONNECT THIS WITH PREVIOUS DAY'S
EXTENSION OF ISRAELI LAW TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, VIEWING
BOTH AS OPEN CHALLENGES TO USG. ACCORDING PRESS, ISRAELI
ACTIONS ON HEELS VANCE VISIT AIMED AT UNDERMINING U.S.
PEACE EFFORTS.

2. U.S. PROTEST. PAPERS QUOTE SECRETARY AS SAYING USG
WILL EXPRESS DISAPPROVAL TO ISRAEL ON NEW SETTLEMENTS.
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PAPERS SAY AMBASSADOR LEWIS TO LODGE OBJECTION TODAY,
AUGUST 18; PROTEST WILL INCLUDE ENNUNCIATION OF USG
OPPOSITION TO " AN CHANGES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES".
AT SAME TIME, AMBASSADOR LEWIS REPORTEDLY WILL REQUEST
CLARIFICATION ON APPLICATION OF ISRAELI LAWS ON WEST
BANK AND IN GAZA.

3. PLO. PRESS QUOTES CLAIM OF UNNAMED PLO SPOKESMAN IN BEIRUT THAT ISRAEL PERSISTING IN EFFORTS BLAST PEACE EFFORTS. HE POINTED TO NEW SETTLEMENTS AS DEMONSTRATION THAT USG UNABLE EXERCISE PRESSURE ON ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. EGYPTIAN PRESS ALSO PROMINENTLY CARRIES AUGUST 17 STATEMENT BY ZUHEIR MUHSIN IN WHICH, AHEAD OF PLO DEPARTMENT CLAIMED PALESTINIANS RESISTED "STRONG PRESSURE" ON PARTY "ARAB GOVERNMENTS". TO ACCEPT UNSC RESOLUTION 242. PLO HAD RESPONDED WITH SUGGESTED MODIFICATION THIS RESOLUTION, WHICH FORWARDED TO SECRETARY IN EGYPT, BUT "VANCE FLATLY REFUSED" AND VOWED "USE U.S. VETO AGAIN" IF AMENDMENT PROPOSED.

4. ARAB CONDEMNATION. PAPERS QUOTE, WITH OUT COMMENT, VARIOUS ARAB GOVERNMENT CONDEMNATIONS OF ISRAELI ACTIONS AS YET, EGYPT HAS ISSUED NO OFFICIALS REACTION.

5. LEBANON. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO CLAIM PRESIDENT CARTER HAS WARNED ISRAEL AGAINST ACTS WHICH COULD LEAD TO MILITARY DETERIORATION OF SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. MESSAGE (NOT WARNING) ON SAME SUBJECT REPORTEDLY SENT TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD AS WELL.

6. EDITORIAL. AHRAH CONTAINED ONLY EDITORIAL ON RECENT ME DEVELOPMENTS. PAPER WELCOMED PRESIDENT CARTER'S CALL FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF MIDELE EAST ISSUES, SAYING THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL DEMONSTRATE ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND OPPOSITION TO PEACE. ACCORDING AHRAH, ISRAELI ACTIONS ARE "STAB TO PEACE EFFORTS AND AMERICAN INTERESTS IN AREA". PAPER CALLS UPON ARAB STATES TO EXPLOIT THIS DURING UPCOMING UNGA, CLARIFYING SITUATION FOR INTERNATIONAL AND PARTICULARLY U.S. PUBLIC OPINION.

7. RIGHT OF RETURN. LENTHY ANIS MANSOUR COMMENTARY IN AUGUST 18 AHRAH REITERATES CALL FOR RETURN OF JEWS BORN IN ARAB COUNTRIES TO THEIR HOMELANDS. THIS, MANSOUR MAINTAINS, WOULD BE GREATEST CATASTROPHE IN ISRAELI HISTORY, DEPRIVING ISRAEL OF "80 PERCENT OF ARMY THAT FOUGHT IN 1967 AND 1973."

8. COMMENT: LACK OF OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT PUBLIC COMMENT ON ISRAELI ACTIONS PROBABLY REFLECTS GOE BELIEF THAT SUPPOSED U.S. /ISRAELI ESTRANGEMENT WILL NOT BE FOSTERED BY RAISING LEVEL OF CAIRO RHETORIC AND RECOGNITION THAT EGYPT LACKS REALISTIC ALTERNATIVES TO RELYING ON USG TO DELIVER ISRAELIS. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR GOE TO CONTINUE EXERCISING THIS RESTRAINT IN FACT OF REPEATED ISRAELI PROVOCATIONS. AS FAHMY INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR (CAIRO 13608),

ABSENCE OF EGYPTIAN STATE DOES NOT INDICATE LACK OF CONCERN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, WEST BANK, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO13730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770298-1307
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770850/aaaabpzm.tel
Line Count: 118
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 17a91759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 13605, 77 CAIRO 13680
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1569265
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS; ARAB REACTIONS
TAGS: PDEV, EG, IS, XF, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/17a91759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009